



CITY OF ABSECON
Municipal Complex
500 Mill Road
Absecon, New Jersey 08201

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Municipal Clerk

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CITY COUNCIL

APRIL 2, 2015
WORK & REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Chris Seher at 7:00 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE – Mayor

INVOCATION – Rev. Louis Strugala, Jr., Chaplin for Atlantic County Sheriff's Dept.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Camp, Horton, Phillips, Ring Vizthum, Seher

ABSENT: Cain

ALSO PRESENT: Mayor Armstrong, Tim Maguire, Jessica Thompson, Carie Crone

STATEMENT OF SUNSHINE LAW - Chris

NOTIFICATION OF MEETING BEING RECORDED – Chris

REPORTS

Sandy – Public Works – no report

Jim – Public Safety – no meeting. His next one will be Tuesday 4/7 @ 7 p.m. The Mill Road closings should be done now

Frank - Parks & Playground – met on 3/17. Concerts were discussed and his next meeting will be on 4/21. The backstops should be completed by 4/10. They are getting a handle on the temporary badges and he explained. They are also discussing the possibility of doing it all in-house. He gave credit to Pete Higbee for the concert list; he does a great job. He thanked Kathy Clark for her years of service on the committee.

Don – Finance – the budget will be adopted at the 4/16 council meeting. With regards to the donated property on Morton Avenue, he thinks we should accept it. There is no environmental study needed and if we do take it and maybe incorporate the paper streets, we would end up with about 10 acres of ground there for possible future development. He asked Eddie to look into the street situation. His next meeting will be 4/16 @ 6:00 p.m.

Chris – every time this comes up, we talk about having some type of outline of a consistent approach to dealing with accepting properties. He thought the committee was to come back with a report that would show other similar properties. He wants to be consistent with this.

Don – that one property was too close to the dump. This one is not and there is no road to it.

Jessica – has a list of the properties and they have to go through it and decide.

Tim - you need title insurance and possible environmental study if necessary. He will reach out to the attorney and advise him of this.

Mike – Community Affairs – a great job was done by a group of students on the radio this morning. He then announced upcoming events in town. Mentioned Resolutions #66 and #67 on tonight's agenda. His next meeting is 5/7 @ 5 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. He wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Kim – Economic Development – the committee prepared flyers informing businesses of the resources available to them by the State. It will be put on the website also. Absecon Gardens has now sold 12 units, which are primary residents and not rentals. The electric sign going up in front of the American Legion should be finished soon. They thanked the Cesar family who donated it. Rick Williams will still be the contact person for it. Her next meeting will be 5/7 @ 6:30 p.m. Happy Easter to all.

Mayor – On 4/25 the police dept. will have a prescription drug drop-off. The residents of Bel Air Lakes had a meeting with the ACUA regarding complaints with odors emanating from their yard. Last October, they were provided a description of their efforts to mitigate those conditions. At the meeting, they were told that the ACUA is about to close the cell that is adjacent to their development. They are now operating a different cell in a more remote location. In addition to that change, they received bids to temporarily close the cell adjacent to them and they will hopefully approve a contract and have it completed by the end of the summer. It's expected that the improvement will greatly reduce the number and severity of complaints with regard to odors. Our new Police Chief along with Lt. Laughlin and members of the dept. have expressed enthusiasm in advancing community policing in Absecon, especially with some critical events happening in town. The Chief will speak to different community groups and the first one will be next Thursday night at 7 p.m. at the Oyster Bay condominiums with members of that community to discuss their public safety concerns as well as city services.

Jessica – spoke about Res. #65, dealing with the LOSAP for the fire dept. NJ American Water will be doing hydrant flushing from 4/19 to 5/11. Spring Leaf Collection will start 4/6 through 4/30. The city's audit for 2014 is complete and she will distribute it next week to discuss it at the finance meeting in two weeks. She explained the second readings of Ordinances #3 and 4, on tonight's agenda.

Engineer – the backstops are almost complete and should be functioning next week. The tennis courts are being leveled out and getting ready for a new base. The weather will determine when they get completed. The 2014 road program should start by the end of the month. The Girl Scout Lodge demolition quotes are due 4/24. The 2015 road program is in the design stage and the bids will go out by May and work done this summer. He is trying to meet with the new County engineer to go over our design regarding the NJ Ave. and Ambassador Avenue project.

Chris – expressed that in the Absecon Gardens documents, they are not allowed to have any renting or sub-letting for 3 years, so they are all owner occupied.

PUBLIC PORTION

Motion to open to the public- Councilman Camp – second – Councilman Ring
All were in favor.

Michael Hinchman – Ocean City – he is a commercial real estate investor in South Jersey, two of which are the warehouses on Mill Road. He said he is delinquent in his taxes here and is working with his bank to remedy this. He wanted to ask the Council to change the Mercantile License ordinance. It now reads that if taxes are not paid, the business can't get their Mercantile License. Last year, his tenants did pay their Mercantile License fees, but were unable to get their Mercantile Licenses. He wants them to consider removing this condition for the tenants, to avoid people leaving Absecon. He has never had a problem dealing with Absecon, but just would like the Ordinance amended to help the tenants out.

Mayor – you have two properties, one went to tax sale and they were paid by another party, so any tenant on that property will get their license. Our practice has been not to issue the license, but have also refrained from taking any action under the ordinance.

Chris – asked the Economic Development Committee to look into the pros and cons of this

Motion to close public portion – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilman Phillips
All were in favor.

REGULAR MEETING

2015 ORDINANCES FOR FINAL ADOPTION

- 03 An Ordinance to exceed the Municipal Budget appropriation limits and to establish a cap bank (N.J.S.A. 40A-45.14)

Motion for second reading – Councilman Ring – second – Councilwoman Horton

ROLL CALL: Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Vizthum, yes; Seher, yes

Motion to open to the public – Councilman Camp – second – Councilman Vizthum

All were in favor. – No public comment

Motion to close public – Councilman Ring – second – Councilman Phillips

All were in favor.

Motion for final reading and adoption – Councilman Vizthum – second – Councilman Ring

ROLL CALL: Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Vizthum, yes; Seher, yes

- 04 An Ordinance establishing salary ranges – adding title Class II Officers.

Motion for second reading – Councilman Ring – second – Councilwoman Horton

ROLL CALL: Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Vizthum, yes; Seher, yes

Motion to open to the public – Councilwoman Horton – second – Councilman Phillips

All were in favor. – No public comment

Motion to close public – Councilman Ring – second – Councilman Vizthum

All were in favor.

Motion for final reading and adoption – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Ring

ROLL CALL: Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Vizthum, yes; Seher, yes

2015 RESOLUTIONS

- 65 Certifying the qualified participants in the Length of Services Award Program (LOSAP) for the Absecon Volunteer Fire Department for the calendar year 2014.
- 66 Granting a Raffle License to Holy Spirit High School.
- 67 Permitting a Charitable Organization to solicit funds, namely the Charles A. Hammell Post 28 American Legion.

CONSENT AGENDA

All matters listed under Consent Agenda, are considered to be routine by this City Council and will be enacted by one motion in the form listed. There will be no separate discussion of these items. If discussion is desired, that item will be removed from the Consent Agenda and will be considered separately.

Resolutions #65 to 67 were moved in the Consent Agenda.

Motion to move consent agenda – Councilman Camp – second – Councilman Phillips

ROLL CALL: Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Vizthum, yes; Seher, yes

APPROVAL OF BILL LIST - \$216,318.51

Motion to approve – Councilman Ring – second – Councilwoman Horton

ROLL CALL: Camp, yes; Horton, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Vizthum, yes; Seher, yes

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes – 3/19/2015

Motion to approve – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Ring

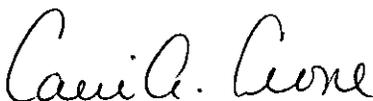
ROLL CALL: Camp, abstain; Horton, yes; Phillips, yes; Ring, yes; Vizthum, yes; Seher, yes

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn – Councilman Phillips – second – Councilman Camp

All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



Carrie A. Crone, City Clerk

Approved: 4-16-15